

## AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for feeding flat items to a friction/suction-type separating arrangement ~~flat items which, the items standing in a stack form on a narrow side, are supported by an abutment surface and, aligned on a stop surface (6), and are transported by a conveying means (5) moving to the a withdrawal location,~~ the friction/suction-type separating arrangement comprising:

- ~~having at least one friction-type withdrawal means (1), which is driven in a controlled manner,~~
- ~~and; at least one suction head arranged directly downstream of that region of the friction-type withdrawal means, the at least one suction head connected to (1) which acts on the items; at least one suction head (2); which is connected to a negative-pressure source (8),~~
- characterized in that a sensor arranged in or on the suction head (2) is a sensor (7), the sensor comprising means for measuring ~~which measures the negative pressure in the suction head, and~~
- a conveying means and drive control device therefor, the sensor (2) and is connected to a the drive control device of the conveying means such that the conveying means (5) to may be activated in dependence on the negative pressure measured such in that the a foremost item at the at least one friction-type withdrawal means (1) is inclined as little as possible and; with the stack pressure being as low as possible.

2. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein the drive control device comprises means for displacing the conveying means at a substantially constant speed is designed such that, if the negative pressure drops below a defined value, the conveying means (5) is displaced~~

~~at a constant speed in the direction of the withdrawal location, and in that, if another defined negative pressure is exceeded, the conveying means (5) is stopped.~~

3. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~as claimed in~~according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the measured values of the sensor (7) are integrated and the conveying means (5) is displaced in accordance with the current integrated values.

4. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~as claimed in~~according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~wherein mean values are formed from the measured values of the sensor (7) and the conveying means (5) is displaced in accordance with the current mean values.

5. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~as claimed in~~according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the drive control device comprises means for setting a speed of the conveying means as an inverse proportion of ~~is configured such that the speed of the conveying means (5) is in inverse proportion to the negative pressure measured.~~

6. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~as claimed in~~according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising a plurality of successively arranged suction heads for high items, each of the suction heads comprising a sensor, the plurality of suction heads, for high items, a plurality of suction heads (2) each with a sensor (7) connected to the drive control device for having means for determining the an inclined position; and the movement of the conveying means (5) derived therefrom the inclined position, are arranged one above the other.

7. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~as claimed in~~according to claim 6, further comprising height determination sensors~~characterized in that sensors are provided for determining the heights of the items, and wherein height of the drive control device is configured such that, in the case of items which, on account of their height, do not cover over all of the suction heads (2), and the negative pressures of the suction heads (2) which are only partially covered over, if at all, and are not evaluated.~~

8. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, further comprising ~~characterized in that~~ a circulating withdrawal belt (1) with suction openings ~~is provided~~ arranged as the a friction-type withdrawal means, with the negative pressure of the downstream suction head (2) acting, via the suction openings, on the respectively foremost item.